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Senators Ask Goodwin to Tell About His Meeting With Guevara

The Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Latin America yesterday asked Richard N. Goodwin, special assistant to the President, to report to it on his conversation in Uruguay this month with Maj. Ernesto (Che) Guevara, Cuba's economic chief.

Whether Goodwin will appear to answer the Subcommittee's questions or whether President Kennedy will instruct him to decline the invitation was apparently not decided last night.

Something of a precedent would be created if a White House aide testified before a congressional committee. Usually executive immunity is claimed.

Associate White House Press Secretary Andrew T. Hatcher replied, "No comment," when asked about the Subcommittee's invitation to Goodwin.

Informed sources insisted that Goodwin had nothing to hide and would gladly report

on his conversation except that he is an agent of the President.

It is because he is a presidential agent that senatorial eyebrows were raised when it was disclosed he had spoken with a leader of a government with which the United States has broken diplomatic relations.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), the Democratic Whip, announced that Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), Chairman of the Latin American Subcommittee, was attempting to arrange a meeting with Goodwin for later this week to "explore what talks were had and what took place."

Interest in the Goodwin-Guevara conversation increased following the resignation Monday of Argentine Foreign Minister Adolfo Mugica, who disclosed that the talk took place and who was under fire for allegedly arranging a meeting between Guevara and

Argentine President Arturo Frondizi.

Mugica said Goodwin conferred with Guevara for three hours. Hatcher said the two talked for 20 or 25 minutes at a party they both attended.

"Neither the President nor Mr. Goodwin had any knowledge that Mr. Goodwin would meet or speak with Mr. Guevara," Hatcher said. He added that it was "a casual meeting and completely accidental."

It took place at a party given Aug. 16 for a Brazilian diplomat at Montevideo, Uruguay, following the Inter-American Economic Conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

"As far as Mr. Goodwin was concerned, it was polite conversation," Hatcher said. Goodwin and Guevara met in a room with a number of other persons, not in a private room, and "others were present during the entire conversation," Hatcher said.